

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 17 are pending in this application. These pending claims are allowed, as indicated in the May 8 Advisory Action. By this Amendment, rejected claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 30 and withdrawn claims 5, 8, 9 and 12-14 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

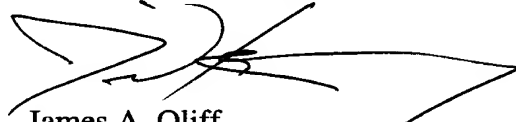
Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely cancel rejected or withdrawn claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Advisory Action. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Ohnuma, U.S. Patent No. 6,322,168. The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DRK/kxs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 31, 2007

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